Volume 11, Edition 9 November 2006

Valley of the Moon Amateur Radio Club
WIRELESS

North to "Not Quite" Alaska With APRS

—by Dave KD6FIL

This summer I took a little trip north, up into Canada with my Dad and ran an APRS beacon to show the folks at home where we were. The tracker was made up of my trusty Radio Shack handheld and a TinyTracker from Byonics. I built a copper pipe antenna that fit inside a piece of 1" PVC that did not require a groundplane (which is a good thing because that can be a problem on a fiberglass boat.)

The trip started by towing a 24 foot boat up to Washington and launching in Port Townsend. Now the fun really started with beautiful weather and lots of water. We cruised through the San Juan Islands of Washington and up into the Gulf Islands of British Columbia Canada.

The licensing requirements in Canada are very easy and did not require any paperwork. So I just kept beaconing and had good coverage in populated areas. In Nanaimo, on Vancouver Island, we had a problem with the outboard on the raft we used as a tender, so I got on a local repeater and got lots of help from the local hams. There is a linked repeater network on Vancouver Island with really great coverage the length of the island.

One of the highlights of the trip was going to Princess Louisa Inlet. To get there you go through fjords that extend up to 40 miles into the mainland. The mountains go straight up from the water and there are snowfields just a couple of thousand feet above you in places. Princess Louisa Inlet can be best described as Yosemite with water in the bottom and very few people. Granite domes extend from the water straight up 2000 or 3000 feet. Check out http://www.princesslouisa.bc.ca.

In case you thought it was all sight seeing, we did have to navigate too. The tidal change is up to 20 feet in the area and the currents in some of the narrow channel can get up to 20 MPH. We hiked down to one spot called Skookumchuck Rapids, where the tidal surge creates an 8-foot standing wave that kayakers ride. Check out the website at http://www.bigpacific.com/whattodo/viewtides.html. We did not go through that!

We covered about 700 miles in the boat in 10 days on the water. We got to see some spectacular country and talk with some wonderful people. Take your HT with you when you travel and try APRS if you want to show friends where you are.

FROM THE TOP

Yours truly went to Mississippi for two weeks.
Saw some of the aftermath of KATRINA and took a few pictures... We , KG6LJM & KG6LJN have put an offer on a place in Leaksville,Ms.. We will know if the offer is accepted by the 17th of this month. That being said , that is why I have not put myself up for nomination for President. I will keep "ya all" informed if things change....

UP COMING EVENTS

NOVEMBER
15th WEDNESDAY is MEETING NIGHT. Will be held at the Sonoma Fire House 7:30 PM. Speaker Tim Barrett,K6BIV will speak on Digital communications.
Election of OFFICERS for 2007..
Also on the agenda will be the # of persons attending the Christmas Dinner and their choice of entree.
18th- 9:30 am @ SDC is our sponsored VE session.

DECEMBER
CLUB DINNER.
Wed 13TH, at CAL-ITALIA,Maxwell Village Shopping Center.
6:30pm "no host wine bar"
INSTALLATION OF NEW OFFICERS
1st thru 3rd is a 160mtr contest.
9th is a 10mtr contest.

CLUB BREAKFAST- 2nd of Dec @ ISSA's
Dan KG6LJN

VOMARC MEETING MINUTES For OCTOBER

10/18/06
The meeting was called to order by Vice President Dave at 7:30pm.

Present were:

Members: Dave KD6FIL, Sanford N7PIB, Joel NN6J, John KD6KVZ, Jan K9OOU, Jan AE6KQ, Alan K6KLL, George K6ITE, Dick K6FZM, Mike WB6TMH, Ken, N6KM, Dave N6DSW and Eileen KG6QNT

Guests: Jon KG6NUQ and Eric WB6MVT from Petaluma.

TREASURER'S REPORT

We have $1,675.85 in the checking account.

ACS

We will be moving to the new Fire Station in December. We will need volunteers.

There will be a unit leaders meeting next Monday night.

It has been suggested that we have a "fun drill" with Petaluma involving GPS geo-caching. Ken will be in touch with Eric, South County unit leader.

VE SESSION

The next VE Session will be November 18 at McDougal hall at the Sonoma Developmental Center.

CHRISTMAS DINNER

Suggested locations included: Pizzaria Capri, Mary's in Boyes Springs, Vinyard Inn in Kenwood and Cal Italia in Maxwell Village. We selected Cal Italia. The cost of

the meal will be reasonable and they will charge us $9 corkage.

The dinner will be the 2nd Tues or Wed of December. (It will be the 2nd Wed, December 13 at 6:30.)

BAKER TO VEGAS

The Baker to Vegas run will be the last week in March and meetings will start soon. (The actual dates are April 20 and 21.)

NOMINATION OF OFFICERS

The following members have been nominated:

President:	?
Vice President:	Dave
Secretary:	Joan
Treasurer:	Ken
Education Director:	Jim.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:14pm.

Respectfully submitted,

FOR SALE:

Kantronics All Mode Communicator, a TNC that will do Morse (CW), RTTY, ASCII, AMTOR and Packet on HF and Packet on VHF/UHF. With manual and in good working order. $50.00 VOMARC c/o N6KM, Ken, 707-938-2626

Alinco DR605T Dual band xcvr 144-148/440-450 mHz FM. Like new with original accessories. Sells new for $339.00. Does cross-band repeat. Asking $220.00. N6KM, Ken, 707-938-2626

THE VOMARC WIRELESS

VOLUME 11 EDITION 9
A publication of VOMARC, the Valley of the Moon Amateur Radio Club – W6AJF

Frank C. Jones – W6AJF
Honorary President in Perpetuity

CAST OF CHARACTERS
Dan Sorrick, KG6LJN – President
Dave Dammuller, KD6FIL– Vice-President
Joan Brady, W6WXU – Secretary
Ken McTaggart, N6KM – Treasurer
Eileen Adams, KG6QNT, Membership Chair
Mike Miller, WB6TMH – Radio Officer
Ken McTaggert, N6KM – ACS
Jan Bush, AE6FQ – Webmeister
Joel Nadler, NN6J – VE Liaison
Jim Hill, K6UUW, Elmer Coordinator
Darrel Jones, WD6BOR – Editor

Receipt of the Wireless is one of the most sought after benefits of membership in VOMARC.

CLUB MEETINGS are held on the third Wednesday of each month, alternating between McDougal Hall at the Sonoma Developmental Center, Eldridge, and the Sonoma Fire Station, 630 2nd Street West, Sonoma. Meetings start at 19:30 local (7:30 P.M.).

WEB PAGE: http://www.vomarc.org/

Nets are held every Wednesday night at 19:30 (7:30 P.M.) local, except meeting nights on the 145.350 repeater, -600 kHz, PL 88.5 Hz.

ACS holds a net each Monday evening at 19:30 local on the 146.205, +600, PL 88.5 Hz repeater.

PACKET STATION INFO: The VOMARC packet station is on 144.910 as "SNV1EC". "SNVGW" can be used as a gateway digipeating on 223.66 MHz. The node name is "SNVND".

CLUB BREAKFASTS are held on the first Saturday of each month at Issa's Restaurant, 18999 Sonoma Highway, Sonoma. The fun starts at 09:30 local.

Comments and submissions of material may be sent to:
wd6bor@vom.com

Valley of the Moon ARC, Inc.
175 First Street West
Sonoma, CA 95476

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NOTICE!!! THE NEXT VOMARC MEETING IS WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 15, AT 7:30 P.M. AT THE Sonoma Fire Station on 2nd St West
CU THERE!

VOMARC MEMBERSHIP

VOMARC 2006 Membership Dues: $15/year individual; $5/year family member.

VOMARC encourages its members to join the ARRL. More information is available at www.arrl.org. QST is available to blind and physically handicapped individuals on audio cassette from the Library of Congress, National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. Call 1-800-424-8567.

Name:_____CALL:_____EMAIL:_____

Address:_____APT:_____

City:_____State:_____ZIP:_____

Name:_____CALL:_____EMAIL:_____

Name:_____CALL:_____EMAIL:_____

VOMARC: $_____

Membership Moment, From the Database Queen

Please check the mailing label on this newsletter. It tells you when your VOMARC dues are due. Dues may be mailed to Ken N6KM, 402 Fourth Street East, Sonoma, CA 95476, or brought to the next meeting. If there is any mistake, please do not shoot the messenger; email Eileen KG6QNT at Eileen@vom.com. Your check should be made payable to: **VOMARC**